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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for processing a preform supported with a stationary chuck and a movable chuck of a glass-working lathe, which method comprising providing a burner of a type which is able to create flame-controlled conditions by controlling flow rates of a flammable gas and a supporting gas and which is made of metal, wherein the supporting gas is discharged from at least one group of discharge pipes co-axially classified into three or more groups and located more densely from the center toward an outer periphery thereof, and gas flow rates of the supporting gas from the three or more groups are, respectively, controllable into plural groups that are, respectively, controllable with respect to a gas flow rate, and processing a preform under the flame-controlled conditions.
2. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the plural groups of the discharge pipes are provided within a hollow body through which the flammable gas is passed, and the plural groups are co-axially arranged within the hollow body from a center toward an outer periphery thereof, and the discharge pipes are so arranged that the supporting gas is passed therethrough in a manner as to be controllable in every group.
3. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said hollow body is made of a hollow cylinder and the plural groups of discharge pipes which are concentrically disposed within the

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hollow cylinder closed at one end and opened at the other end.

4. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the plural groups are three in number.
5. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the plural groups are four.
6. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein flow rates of gases supplied to the plurality of groups and also to spaces other than the discharge pipes inside said burner are, respectively, controlled depending on a diameter of a preform to be processed.
7. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the flow rates of the gases are changeable in one of a stepwise or gradual manner.

8.-17. canceled